

Get this one: \$84,000 for gourmet popcorn. My mother and father have never done this. This is, again, a ripoff by the providers and the private sector of the public sector. Scrap the tax break plan and stop picking at our senior citizens.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING THE 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule: The Committee on Banking and Financial Services, the Committee on Commerce, the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, the Committee on International Relations, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Resources, the Committee on Small Business, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

It is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EMERSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

Mr. McNULTY. Reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, my colleague from New York is correct. We have consulted with the ranking members of these committees, and we have no objection to the request.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2058, CHINA POLICY ACT OF 1995, AND HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 96, DISAPPROVING EXTENSION OF MOST-FAVORED-NATION TREATMENT TO THE PRODUCTS OF CHINA

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 193 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 193

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 2058) establishing United States policy toward China. The bill shall be debatable for ninety minutes equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on International Relations. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit. The motion to recommit may include instructions only if offered by the minority leader or his designee.

SEC. 2. After disposition of H.R. 2058, it shall be in order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 96) disapproving the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (most-favored-nation treatment) to the products of the People's Republic of China. The joint resolution shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by Representative Wolf of Virginia and Representative Archer of Texas or their designees. Pursuant to sections 152 and 153 of the Trade Act of 1974, the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to table, if offered by Representative Wolf or his designee. The provisions of sections 152 and 153 of the Trade Act of 1974 shall not apply to any other joint resolution disapproving the extension of most-favored-nation treatment to the People's Republic of China for the remainder of the first session of the One Hundred Fourth Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield 30 minutes to the gentleman from California [Mr. BEILENSON]. During the consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. SOLOMON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this rule was unanimously adopted by the Committee on Rules, and I am proud to say that the arrangement worked out by this rule was unanimously agreed to on a bipartisan basis by the principal parties involved with the legislation.

What the rule does is to first make in order in the House the bill, H.R. 2058, the China Policy Act of 1995, as introduced by the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER].

The rule provides for 90 minutes of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and the ranking minority member of the Committee on International Relations. While we originally considered limiting this to 1 hour of debate, we expanded the debate time at the request of the bipartisan group that had negotiated a compromise with Mr. BEREUTER.

The rule further provides for one motion to recommit the bill, which, if containing instructions, may be offered by the minority leader or his designee. I would point out to my colleagues that this latter provision is in keeping with the new House rule adopted on January 4 of this year which guarantees to the minority the right to offer a motion to recommit with instructions, and I quote from rule XI, clause 4(b), "if offered by the minority leader or his designee." That is what is contained in the House rules.

This is a guarantee we Republicans were denied on numerous occasions when we were in the minority but which we promised to give the minority if we became the majority.

Mr. Speaker, the rule goes on to provide that after the disposition of H.R.

2058, the House may proceed to the consideration in the House of House Joint Resolution 96, introduced by the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. WOLF], disapproving the extension of most-favored-nation status to the products of the People's Republic of China.

The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate, divided equally between the gentleman from Virginia and the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARCHER].

Pursuant to the terms of the fast track procedures, the previous question is considered as ordered to final passage on the joint resolution, except that one motion to table the resolution is in order, if offered by the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. WOLF] or his designee.

Finally, the rule provides that the fast track procedures of the Trade Act shall not apply to any other disapproval resolution relating to MFN for China for the remainder of this session of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, before I turn to the policy aspects of the measures before us, I just want to comment on the cooperation we have received from the parties on all sides of the issue involved here in crafting this rule. As I mentioned earlier, this was reported from the Committee on Rules on a unanimous vote, thanks to the gentleman from California [Mr. BEILENSON] who is managing for the minority. This was also due in no small part to the cooperation and compromise among all concerned that has taken place in crafting the legislative bill made in order by the rule.

I especially want to pay tribute to the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] for his open-mindedness and willingness to listen to other Members. I also commend the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. WOLF] and the gentleman from California [Ms. PELOSI] who have labored for so long in these vineyards, for their accommodating attitudes in reaching agreement on a consensus bill.

I would be remiss if I did not single out the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARCHER], and the ranking minority member of the committee, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GIBBONS], and the Committee on International Relations chairman, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], and the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON] for all their work on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good rule, a fair rule and a bipartisan rule that will enable us to debate the issues and vote on two distinct yet related propositions relating to the People's Republic of China. I hope that we will adopt this rule.

Turning now, Mr. Speaker, to the substance of the issue itself, I cannot avoid making the observation that two things have remained constant since the House began having this annual